

Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 is amended, and claim 27 is added. No new matter is introduced.

wherein a quantity of C amongst said unavoidable impurities is restricted to 0.05% or less, and the Ni-based alloy consists essentially of a stabilized Ni-Fcc matrix.

By employing the components described above and stabilizing the Ni-Fcc matrix, the Ni based alloy in claim 2 of the present invention displays excellent corrosion resistance relative to supercritical water environments containing sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, and hydrofluoric acid, and enables operations to be continued for longer periods. The effects described above can be obtained especially by decreasing the quantity of C so as to prevent the precipitation of carbides with Cr, and by succeeding in the production of the alloy composition which consists of the stabilized Ni-Fcc matrix, (see, e.g., paragraphs [0024] and [0029] of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0158203, which corresponds to the present application).

On the other hand, in the invention of Kazuo et al., stress corrosion cracking is prevented by positively precipitating the carbides with Cr in the grain boundaries (see, e.g., claim 3 and paragraphs [0022] and [0025] of Kazuo), and losing the Cr depletion layer.

That is, in the present invention, the treatment of precipitating the carbides with Cr is not carried out, and the corrosion resistance to supercritical water environments containing inorganic acids is improved by stabilizing the Ni-Fcc matrix and suppressing the precipitation of the carbides with Cr. In sharp contrast to the present invention, Kazuo teaches improving stress corrosion cracking in high-temperature water by positively precipitating the carbides with Cr in the grain boundaries and by losing the Cr depletion layer.

Therefore, it is clear that amended independent claim 2 of the present invention has a substantially different composition from the invention disclosed by Kazuo and thus is not anticipated by Kazuo. Moreover, as Kazuo teaches away from Applicant's invention as claimed in claim 2, in which Cr precipitation is suppressed by decreasing the quantity of C and corrosion

resistance is improved by stabilizing the Ni-Fcc matrix, the invention as claimed in amended independent claim 2 can not be said to be obvious in view of Kazuo.

For at least these reasons, Applicant submits that claim 2 of the present invention is allowable. As claim 3 depends from allowable claim 2, Applicant further submits that claim 3 is also allowable for at least this reason.

III. New Claim

As new claim 27 depends from allowable claim 2, Applicant submits that new claim 27 is allowable for at least this reason.

Moreover, in new claim 27, the quantity of N in claim 2 is restricted from 0.001% to 0.012% (see, e.g. Example A16 in Applicant's table AZ). In the invention of Kazuo et al., the quantity of N described in the examples is within the range from 0.013% to 0.029%, but, in claim 4 of the present invention, the quantity of N is within the range described above, thus claim 27 of the present invention is distinct and nonobvious in view of Kazuo.

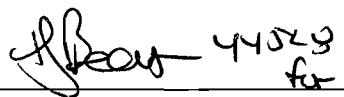
CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below if the Examiner believes any issue can be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

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